

## **EAST COUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**

**Meeting of June 2, 2010**

Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center  
3300 Briggs Chaney Road  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904

### **MEMBERS (ECCAB)**

**Present:** Marva Deskins (Vice Chair); Eric G. Luedtke (Parliamentarian); Thomas J. Aylward; Kim Bobola, Ph.D; Sally Colgan; G. Stanley Doore; David M. Kochanski, Esq; Peter Myo Khin; Allan Mulligan; Leonard E. Newman; Alfreda H. Payne, Ph.D.; Odessa Shannon; Ned B. Williams

**Absent:** Bill Strassberger (Chair); Anthony Ramirez (Secretary); Vanessa E. Ali; Saschane M. Stephenson; Benoy Thomas

**STAFF (EMRSC):** Joy Nurmi (Director); Chuck Crisostomo (Asst. Director) and Anjoo Chohda (SEAA), Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center

**GUESTS:** Pam Saul (Staff, Sen. Rona Kramer; District 14, Montgomery County); Samuel A. Foster, Jr. (Citizen Colesville), Sharon Wider (Citizen); Linda Lanson (Staff, Del. Karen Montgomery; District 14, Montgomery County); William Holliday (Resident); Frank Carouso (GLCA); Dan Wilhlem (Greater Colesville Citizens Association (GCCA) and Montgomery County Civic Federation (MCCF); Bob Sylwester (Resident); Mark Pharoh (Chair, Eastern County Recreation Advisory Board); Khalid Afzal (Team Leader, M-NCPPC ); Kristin O'Connor (Senior Planner, M-NCPPC); Miti Figueredo (Staff, Councilmember Nancy Navarro's office); Mara Parker (Staff, Councilmember Marc Elrich's office); Wilmer Gutierrez (Staff, Councilmember Duchy Trachtenberg's office) Amjad M. Chaudhry (Former ECCAB member and Resident); Eileen Finnegan (Hillandale Citizens Association)

**Vice Chair Marva Deskins** – In the absence of Chair Strassberger, Vice Chair Marva Deskins welcomed everyone and presided over the meeting.

### **CITIZEN'S FORUM**

Asked the guests to introduce themselves and share their concerns with the board. The floor was opened for questions.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

**Vice Chair Marva Deskins**– announced presentations by Council President Nancy Floreen and Khalid Afzal, Team Leader, M-NCPPC.

## PRESENTATIONS

**1. Khalid Afzal (Team Leader, M-NCPPC)** – shared a presentation and update on East County Science Center Master Plan. Planners are setting the stage for a master plan that will support an expanding federal agency and a growing biosciences industry in eastern Montgomery County. The East County Science Center Master Plan will create a vision for an expanded Cherry Hill Employment Area with the goal of creating a mixed-use life sciences center that builds upon the presence of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) campus in White Oak. It is intended to address the land use, urban design and environmental issues. It also will address the need for mobility options in the area. The proposed master plan will make recommendations for a science center that is functional, attractive, safe and highly accessible by:

- Providing housing and amenities to complement existing and future employment activities
- Creating mixed-used, walkable development nodes served by transit
- Addressing the capacity of roads, schools and other public facilities
- Creating public open space
- Protecting environmental resources in the watershed

An Open House is scheduled on **June 30, 2010; 4:30 p.m. -8:30 p.m.** at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center where you can inform planners about issues and opportunities that should be addressed in this plan. Further details about the plan can be obtained at <http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/community/ecsc/index.shtm> **Q&A session followed.**

**2. Nancy Floreen, Council President:** Thanked board for the invitation and shared an update on the Fiscal Year 2011 Operating Budget. It has been an extraordinary and unprecedented fiscal experience, due, in large part, to the 21 percent decline in income tax revenue, and a historic increase in unemployment. Council approved a \$4.3 billion total County operating budget for Fiscal Year 2011, which begins July 1. The overall tax-supported budget of \$3.66 billion reflects a decrease of \$191 million from the FY10 adopted budget, a decrease of 5 percent.

To achieve equity in the allocation of limited funds, the Council reduced spending for Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) by \$24.4 million. These funds will be used to mitigate deep cuts in the safety net and other vital services, including Montgomery College. The budget includes a \$692 property tax credit for owner-occupants of principal residences. It freezes pay for employees of County government, Montgomery College, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) and MCPS. Employees at all agencies except MCPS will be asked to take unpaid furlough days in FY11. Furloughs for County Government employees, including elected officials, will range between three days to eight days. The budget includes a plan to consolidate recreation facility and athletic field permitting, class/program registration and additional recreation programs into County Government from the Department of Parks to create a more streamlined and user-friendly system for County residents. The Council believes this consolidation, over time, will lead to budget savings and operational efficiencies. The budget re-establishes the reserve at 6 percent, which should help maintain the County's AAA bond rating. On the revenue side, some other taxes and fees will go up. The energy tax will increase by 85 percent with the increase split between residential and commercial users, and the tax on wireless phones will increase from \$2 to \$3.50 per month.

Lastly, in this difficult budget year, we are all in this together. Despite a record drop in revenue, we have worked to develop a budget that is fair - fair to our residents who rely on County services, fair to taxpayers and fair to employees. **Q&A session followed.**

**Vice Chair Deskins**– Thanked the speakers for their presentations.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Vice Chair Deskins asked for a review of the minutes of the ECCAB Meeting of May 5, 2010.

**[June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010-1]** A motion to approve the minutes of May 5<sup>th</sup> 2010. The motion was moved by Tom Aylward; seconded by David Kochanski and unanimously approved.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Joy Nurmi announced:

- Welcomed new Board members.
- Thanked and appreciated Chuck Crisostomo, Assistant Director for his outstanding services to the Center and Board.
- The Council approved funding for the police substation.
- There has been another delay in the mandatory referral for the Third District Police Station. The Planning Board has asked for a greater setback than the planning staff had recommended (50 foot reforestation buffer on the west side of the property) and the County is currently reviewing options for accommodating this request. No timeline is yet available.
- June 8<sup>th</sup>, the East County Regional Center is hosting a luncheon meeting at noon of East County apartment managers to discuss how to connect their tenants to County HHS Services, such as emergency rental assistance, and other issues of interest.

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Announcements by Vice Chair Marva Deskins:

- Welcomed Sally Colgan, Leonard Newman and Ned Williams to the East County Citizens Advisory Board. The members were asked to give a brief introduction.
- Honored board member Amjad Chaudhry – Certificate of Appreciation for his service with the board.

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

### **Councilmember Duchy Trachtenberg's office:**

Wil Gutierrez announced:

- Councilmember Trachtenberg enjoyed her time at the Center last ECCAB meeting.
- Council member is working on reestablishing the reserve for the operating budget at 6 percent, which should help maintain the County's AAA bond rating. The reserve was reduced to 5 percent in FY10.

### **Councilmember Nancy Navarro's office:**

Miti Figueredo announced:

- Honored Chuck Crisostomo, Assistant Director, Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center– Certificate of Appreciation for his service and commitment in East County.
- Councilmember Navarro worked hard on the budget to preserve the Third District Police Station operations at the Regional Services Center, HHS services for vulnerable residents, and transit services.

## **Councilmember Mark Elrich's office:**

Mara Parker announced:

- Updated on Good Hope Estates, Tree Boxes, ICC mitigation.
- Conveyed a message on behalf of Burtonsville Day through Claire Iseli who is happy to partner with East County Citizens Advisory Board to organize a health fair. The next meeting is scheduled on June 15<sup>th</sup> at Marilyn J. Praisner Recreation Center @ 6:30 p.m.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee: Tom Aylward, Chair**

The committee discussed EZ Storage. The Colesville Shopping Center walking tour with copy of the Master Plan on May 7<sup>th</sup> was very informative. The committee needs to get more information on Star Pointe Plaza.

### **Services Committee: Kim Bobola on behalf of Chair Anthony Ramirez**

The Services Committee plans to hold a summit similar to Leadership Summit, but on an issue such as Health, Public Safety, Police, or Neighborhood watch. Committee is working on the details.

### **Outreach Committee: Alfreda H. Payne, Chair**

Will call a meeting next week at 7:30 p.m. with an Agenda. Welcomed new board members.

**Amjad Chaudhry** – The Strawberry Festival was attended by the Outreach Committee. Thanked members for their participation.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Kristin O'Connor** – Star Pointe Plaza will be presented at the Maryland Park and Planning Board on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Site Plan – particularly on signage, landscaping. The project is proposed on a commercial lot along 198, at the intersection with US 29. The EZ storage project is approved to build on the adjacent lot in Burtonsville. Will send an email with the link for the proposed signage, elevations and site plan submission for Star Pointe Plaza.

**Kim Bobola** – asked Mara Parker for a clarification on ICC mitigation issue and efforts they are making. Tree box in neighborhood.

**Joy Nurmi** – asked Mara Parker to find out and email the board.

**Tom Aylward** – added that ICC has a nice website, drill down to construction icon for details.

**Mara Parker** – Councilmembers Nancy Navarro (D-4) and Mark Elrich (at-large) introduced a Zoning

Text Amendment (ZTA) on May 27<sup>th</sup>. ZTA 10-07 is intended to limit large off-street parking areas for Public Institutional Facilities (PIFs) in the RNC and RNC/TDR zones under certain circumstances, and is intended to maintain the character of rural neighborhood cluster areas. The County Council will hold a public hearing on July 13<sup>th</sup> 2010 at 1:30 p.m. in the Council Hearing Room for the purpose of giving the public an opportunity to comment on this ZTA.

**Alfredda H. Payne** – inquired about who would continue to attend LabQuest meetings.

**Joy Nurmi** – will continue to attend the meetings at LabQuest.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Kristin O'Connor** – County Council approved putting the Burtonsville Neighborhood Plan in the budget for FY11.

## **ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS**

Eric G. Luedtke (Parliamentarian) - announced Election of Board Members.

Kim Bobola and Thomas Aylward conducted the elections.

Chair	The nominees for the position of Board Chair are Marva R. Deskins, Esq. and Bill Strassberger.
Vice Chair	David Kochanski, Esq.
Secretary	Anthony Ramirez
Parliamentarian	Eric G. Luedtke

- In the absence of Bill Strassberger, Kim Bobola read Bill Strassberger's speech to the Board.
- Marva Deskins, Esq. gave a short speech.
- The ballots for Board Chair were passed to the board members for voting by Anjoo Chohda.
- The ballots were counted by Alfredda H. Payne and Joy Nurmi

Results: Marva R. Deskins, Esq. was elected Chair  
David Kochanski, Esq. was elected by acclamation as the ECCAB Vice Chair

- New officers elected:  
**Marva R. Deskins, Esq.- Chair**  
**David Kochanski, Esq. - Vice Chair**  
**Anthony Ramirez - Secretary**  
**Eric G. Luedtke – Parliamentarian**

Marva Deskins, Esq. thanked the board and assumed the position of ECCAB Chair.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Marva Deskins- passed a motion to adjourn the meeting.

[June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010-2] A motion to adjourn the meeting of June 2, 2010 was passed. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

**The next meeting of ECCAB is scheduled for July 7, 2010.**

## ATTACHMENT

### **Director's Report – June 2010**

#### **Welcome to new ECCAB Members!**

Sally Colgan will bring a valuable perspective to our Board. As the property manager of Oak Hill Apartments in White Oak, she is, in her own words, “in the unique position to have her finger on the pulse of the needs and wants of 280 households.” The East County is home to many apartment dwellers and having someone who can voice their concerns and wishes will be helpful to our Board. She is also the parent of a Blake High School student and mentors teens.

Leonard Newman is a longtime volunteer firefighter with our neighbor, Burtonsville Volunteer Fire Department and will lend yet another unique voice to our Board. Mr. Newman is also a seasoned PTA volunteer, having spent over 11 years on different PTAs, and 7 years with the Countywide Montgomery County Council of PTAs. When not volunteering his time, he is a business person with extensive experience in project management.

Ned Williams is a career civil service professional with over 27 years of experience. Currently, he serves as staff director at the U.S. Nuclear Risk Reduction Center at the State Department. He has been very active in his homeowners association, Cross Creek in Burtonsville, advocating for his community on pedestrian safety, school and environmental issues.

#### **ECRSC Police Substation**

The Council approved funding for the police substation.

#### **Third District Police Station**

There has been another delay in the mandatory referral for the Third District Police Station. The Planning Board has asked for a greater setback than the planning staff had recommended (50 foot reforestation buffer on the west side of the property) and the County is currently reviewing options for accommodating this request. No timeline is yet available.

#### **Apartment Managers Meeting**

June 8<sup>th</sup>, the East County Regional Center is hosting a luncheon meeting at noon of East County apartment managers to discuss how to connect their tenants to County HHS Services, such as emergency rental assistance, and other issues of interest.